Rs. 38,531 crores.

Exemption/withdrawal of taxes on FPIS

1121. DR.T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of Food Processing Industries and various industries' associations have demanded exemption or withdrawal of taxes applicable to processed foods and removal of contract farming for food processing industry, from the purview of the land ceiling law, to achieve quality and economy of scale;

(b) if so, whether this issue was discussed at a meeting of State Ministers for Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, what were the points discussed In the meeting; and

(d) to what extent Government have agreed to provide help and assistance to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) Representations regarding exemption/withdrawal of taxes applicable to food processing industries have been received from different associations. One of the constraints faced by Food Processing Industries is multiplicity of tax. The Industry Associations during interaction. Including in meetings with State Ministers, have demanded fiscal concessions to processed foods for accelerated growth of this sector. Rationalisation of tax structure is a continuous process and Government have taken various steps in this regard. In the Budget of 2001-2002, Excise Duty on processed fruits & vegetables was brought down to zero from 16%.

Community Fruit Processing and Training Centres in H.P.

1122. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for setting up of community fruit processing and training centres in rural areas in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the places covered under this scheme; and

(c) what action have been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) Two non-government organizations have recently submitted applications for assistance for setting up of the Food Processing & Training Centre at Chopal in Distt. Shim la and Village Mohal in Distt. Kullu respectively. These Organizations have been requested to furnish certain papers for further consideration of the request.

ICDS Projects

1123. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ICDS projects^anctidned by Government upto 30th June, 2002 throughout the country;

(b) how many posts have been sanctioned by the Central Government for implementation of ICDS, as per the project norms and against these sanctioned posts, how many posts have been sanctioned by the State Governments;

(c) whether the State Government have reduced these sanctioned posts, if so, the reasons of doing so and why this reduction was permitted; and

(d) whether Govemment are giving grant to State Governments, according to the posts or sanctioned posts, as per ICDS norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) A total of 5652 Projects have been sanctioned till 30th June, 2002.

(b) and (c) As per norms, an ICDS project is sanctioned by the Central Government with one post each of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Assistant/Statistical Assistant, Clerk/T>pist, Driver and Peon for each Project, one post of Supervisor per 25-30 Anganwadi Centres and one post each of Anganwadi Worker/Helper for each centre. The State Governments are not expected to vary the number of posts nor such variation is permitted, except re-designating the posts as per those existing in the concerned State.

(d) The entitlement and release of grant to States/Union TerrStOfies is worked out on the basis of operational number of ICDS projects and pace of expenditure by the respective State/Union Territory.